795 saying anything." The man remained quiet. Then the exorcist rubbed
789 his hand around the plate of rice, and while staring at the woman
791 said some spells. Next he told her to come back to her own seat, and
she did. Then he again told the ghost it was past 0800 hrs. and the
755 ghost had not yet left. It replied that it would go if it were given music, hymn-singing and a picture of Murugan. Then, on a relative's suggestion, the proceedings were postponed. That evening they held a *pu:ja* in one of the houses, with this same exorcist in charge. He gave a small religious picture to the ghost, and it went away—if indeed it was ever there!

*Other Mental Disturbances*

158 8.7. Cases of insanity are rarely observed in Badaga villages, not because of their infrequency but because the victims are usually kill-
(734) ed off by their relatives with an over-dose of opium hidden in some
(682) food. In 1970 a madman hobbled with chains could however be seen in one village, but this was very unusual. Insanity is thought to be
(828) caused by a demoness, *Ka:teri pe:* who possesses a man, takes his food from him, will not leave him, and ultimately brings exhaustion by not letting him rest properly.

158 8.8. Witchcraft accusations are common in many parts of India
754 (Epstein 1959), but among the Badagas this kind of paranoid behaviour does not occur *within* the community. Witchcraft is nonetheless present, but it is only the Kurumba and Irula sorcerers and occa-
754 sional Todas (Rivers 1906: 262; Francis 1908: 144) whom Badagas
186 accuse of it. This displacement of anxiety onto members of another tribe probably helps reduce it effectively. In one recent case a newly
●154 married man was apparently experiencing sexual frustrations with his wife: at any rate, he claimed that very often as he slept with his wife at night in a room off the veranda a Kurumba came, separated the two, and built a low brick wall in the bed between them. Such a thing could occur, it was believed, because the Kurumbas had the power to open a bolted door from the outside. The only known way to curtail a Kurumba's powers is to either knock out one of his
754 teeth or cut off his hair (and probably burn it). Important in the containment of witchcraft is the fact that each cluster of Badaga
177 villages appoints a Kurumba sorcerer to protect those Badagas from the sorcery of his fellow tribesmen. His concern for the welfare of his Badaga hosts is expressed symbolically by the key role he plays